

NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange EIS

EPA Items Batch 3b – Resolution Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 19, 2015 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT
DNR Central Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. Welcome/Agenda check
2. Process Check-in
3. EPA Remaining Issues Table

3a. Water Related Items

Preparatory Deliverables

AMENDED Response to EPA Comment #2: Water Quality - waste rock and acid rock drainage [Issue 1]
AMENDED Response to EPA comment #32: TB groundwater capture [Issue 3]
PFEIS Figure 5.2.2-7: TB Containment System [Issue 3]
Response to EPA Comment #14: Duration of Treatment [Issue 6]
NorthMet Project FEIS Duration of Water Treatment at Mine Site and Plant Site Rationale for Thematic Response (Co-leads, November 17, 2014) [Issue 6]
Response to EPA Comment #11: Water Modeling - Partridge River flow [Issue 9]

➤ Issue #1

Acid generation may occur from pits, pit walls, waste rock and lean ore piles, but will be managed on-site through collection, treatment, disposal, and use of adaptive management as needed.

➤ Issue #3

A groundwater capture and containment system will be installed at the tailings basin.

➤ Issue #6

a) The water model is not designed to estimate the duration of active water treatment. The EIS will clarify this, b) the role of financial assurance and adaptive management in ensuring that water quality standards are met, and DNR's intent to require the project proposer to pilot, and potentially implement, passive treatment as a permit condition if the project proceeds.

➤ Issue #9

The sensitivity of water quality impacts to groundwater base flow at the mine site is being investigated.

- Action: Provide sensitivity analysis to EPA for review.

3b. Water Related Items - Amended from Batch 3

Preparatory Deliverables

AMENDED Response to EPA Comment #7: NPDES permitting [Issue 2]

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➤ Issue #2

During active mining and post-closure, water quality standard exceedances will be prevented through on-site treatment or other measures, before discharge to waters of the U.S. --SDS approach to monitoring

3c. Wetland Related Items

Preparatory Deliverables

- Response to EPA Comment #19: criteria for wetland fragmentation loss [Issue 21]

➤ Issue #21

Comment #19 criteria for wetland fragmentation loss

3d. Wetland Related Items - Amended from Batch 3

Preparatory Deliverables

- AMENDED Response to EPA Comment #21: Update on wetland mitigation credits [Issue 15]
- USACE 2015a Letter from USACE to Jennifer Saran, PolyMet Mining [Issue 15]
- AMENDED PFEIS Section 5.2.3.3 Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring [Issues 14, 15, 23]

➤ Issue #15

The proposed wetland mitigation sites may not provide sufficient credits for the proposed direct and indirect wetland impacts.

- Action: PolyMet is currently looking into prospective wetland mitigation options. Once this review is complete, EPA and USACE will determine if the proposed sites and acreage are sufficient to cover direct and indirect wetland impacts.

4. Other

5. Next Meeting: Batch 4 Presentation – Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM CT